

1-6. (Cancelled)

A1

7. (Currently Amended) A diagnostic method comprising the steps of:

reacting a sample of body fluid or tissue likely to contain antibodies with raised against one or more peptides derived isolated from the E2, E6, and E7 early coding regions of human papillomavirus 16 and 18 to diagnose cervical disease or detect cervical cellular abnormalities; b) forming a complex of said papillomavirus derived isolated peptide and sample antibodies; wherein the formation of said antibody-peptide complex confirms the presence of antibodies to human papillomavirus; c) and detecting said antibody-peptide complex.

8. (Currently Amended) A diagnostic method according to claim 7, wherein the one or more peptide sequences is selected from the group consisting of: set forth in SEQ ID NO.: 1

~~Asp Ile Cys Asn Thr Met His Tyr Thr Asn Trp Thr His Ile Tyr Ile~~

~~Cys Glu Glu (SEQ ID NO.1),~~

~~His Lys Ser Ala Ile Val Thr Leu Thr Tyr Asp Ser Glu Trp Gln Arg~~

~~Asp Gln Phe (SEQ ID NO.2),~~

~~Pro Thr Leu His Glu Tyr Met Leu Asp Leu Gln Pro Glu Thr Thr Asp~~

~~Leu Tyr Cys Tyr Glu Gln Leu Asn Asp Ser Ser Glu Glu Glu (SEQ ID NO.3),~~

~~Cys Asp Ser Thr Leu Arg Leu Cys Val Gln Ser Thr His Val Asp Ile~~

~~Arg Thr Leu Glu (SEQ ID NO.4),~~

~~Glu Lys Thr Gly Ile Leu Thr Val Thr Tyr His Ser Glu Thr Gln Arg~~

~~Thr Lys Phe (SEQ ID NO.5).~~

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9. (Currently Amended) A diagnostic method according to claim 8, wherein carboxymethylcysteine is substituted for one or more of said cysteine residues in said sequences sequence.

10. (Currently Amended) A diagnostic method according to claim 8, wherein the diagnosis is made of an HPV infection epitope.

11. (Original) A diagnostic method according to claim 8, wherein the diagnosis made is that of an HPV associated epithelial cell abnormality.

12. (Original) A diagnostic method according to claim 8, wherein the diagnosis made is that of cervical carcinoma.

13. (Original) A diagnostic method according to claim 8, wherein the diagnosis made is that of adenocarcinoma of the uterine cervix.

14. (Currently Amended) A diagnostic method according to claim 7, wherein the peptide employed is derived isolated from an E2 coding region and the diagnosis made is that of an infection with an oncogenic HPV oncoprotein epitope from HPV.

15. (Cancelled)

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*contd*

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) A diagnostic method according to claim 7, wherein the detection step is accomplished by means of visual inspection of a color change.

18. (Currently Amended) A diagnostic method according to claim 7, wherein the detection step is accomplished by a spectrophotometer spectrophotometer.

19. (New) A diagnostic method according to claim 7, wherein the detection step further comprises inspecting said antibody-peptide complex for physical-chemical changes.

20. (New) A diagnostic method according to claim 7, wherein said cervical cellular abnormalities are associated with human papillomavirus 16, 18, 31, 33, 35, 45, 51, 52, 56 or 58.

21. (New) A diagnostic method according to claim 7, wherein said cervical cellular abnormalities are selected from the group consisting of koilocytosis, hyperkeratosis, precancerous conditions encompassing intraepithelial lesions, high-grade dysplasias, invasive cancers and malignant cancers.

22. (New) A diagnostic method according to claim 10, wherein said epitope is an antigenic region against which antibody reactivity would occur.